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**State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services**  
**February 7, 2006 – 9 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**  
**WICK Alumini – 1520 R Street, Lincoln, NE**  
**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:**

Adria Bace, Allen Bartels, Beth Baxter, James Deaver, Scot Ford, Dwain Fowler, Bev Ferguson, Chris Hanus, Clint Hawkins, Pat Compton, Nancy Kratky, Susan Krome, Kathy Lewis, Frank Lloyd, Maria Prendes-Intel, Darlene Richards

**Committee Members Absent:**

Cec Brady, Jimmy Burke, Richard Ellis, Wesley Legan, Ron Sorensen, Mary Wells

**HHS Staff Present:**

Alexandra Castillo, Jim Harvey, Joel McCleary, Dan Powers, Lee Tyson

**Guests Present:**

Melia Cooke, Alan Green, J Rock Johnson

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Allen Bartels, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Roll call of members determined that a quorum was met with **12 Members** present at the beginning of the meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2005 MINUTES**

Allen asked for any additions or corrections to the November 9, 2005 meeting minutes. Correction needs to be made on page 4 under the section Cultural Competency Report – GAP # 8 is listed twice but it should be GAP #7.

**Motion:** James Deaver

**To approve the November 9, 2005 Mental Health Advisory Minutes with correction.**

**Second:** Beth Baxter

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously by consensus.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Allen asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented by general consent.

**Motion:** Susan Krome

**To approve the agenda as presented.**

**Second:** Pat Compton

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously by consensus.

**IV. REPORTS**

**0. Report From BH Council**

- Consumer definition was adopted to meet the requirements of LB1083 and to work on having LB551 amended to include family members: *“An individual or family member who has utilized substance abuse, mental health, gambling, or other addiction services from licensed professionals and who has an interest in enhancing the accessibility and quality of care of services in Nebraska is eligible for appointment to a state advisory committee in their area of treatment.”*

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- The following recommendations were presented to the Council.
    - To recommend the Regional Housing Programs address notification of the HUD-Section 8 application process to consumers through the regional affirmative marketing plan and communication plan as it affects mental health, substance abuse, and gambling consumers.
    - To recommend to the HHS Policy Cabinet that the State Rental Assistance Transition Program vouchers be distributed in a flexible way to address all the priorities in the guidelines.
    - To recommend HHS to work with Department of Economic Development to amend the Nebraska Fair Housing Act so that it no longer discriminates based on method of payment.

## 0. BH Division Reports

- Division New Staff/Office of Consumer Affairs Administrator  
Joel McCleary, a Lincoln resident, has taken the position of Administrator of the Office of Consumer Affairs. His goal is to help consumers meet their destiny, to have a consumer present at all business events that affect consumers and mental health services. He wants to be out in the communities.
- Rental Assistance Voucher Program  
all members received the 6 month implementation report on the housing related assistance program as authorized under LB40 (*Attachment A*) The implementation date was 7-1-2005 is reflected in the report. Report explains how the program was developed, summary of consumer eligibility, funding allocation, expenditure of funds and tracking summary. All six regions have implemented programs.

Question asked; are adjustments made by regions or are they being managed by division?

Example of adjustment need is in Region 2 it shows a total estimate of 14 vouchers and 12 of those are for priority one, which is high compared to other Regions. The vouchers are based on numbers of individuals by regions in the behavioral health reform units at the three regional centers. The regions may propose to the Division what the number ought to be.

Regional Housing Coordinator during the first year of implementation will be learning to recognizing the problems that consumers are experiencing. Division is asking for Region's input on how to update/upgrade the program and looking at the guidelines of the program. Division will be meeting with the regions to gather input on how the program will operate in 2007.

- NAMI - Dan Powers introduced, NAMI Executive Director, Eve Blythe  
A handout of "Vision for Tomorrow" was distributed to members. Eve briefly stated their goal is to increase their scope statewide and continuing to grow. They want to serve the entire state, have a design to transition into the community and have Peer to Peer support training. NAMI is putting on conference July 2006 in Lincoln.
- PATH  
Dan Powers, explained PATH is a grant directed to the homeless populations. PATH is an acronym for Project in Assistance for Transition from Homelessness. PATH programs are in Regions 1, 3, 5 and 6. Grant allocations for each region is shown in data table. (*Attachment B*) Committee members received a copy of the PATH Annual Report. The figures are for 2005 and not 2002 as it appears on the title of the report. The report shows people served by the grant with a break down by race, gender and housing status, such as numbers of people living outdoors, short term shelters, long term shelters. The homeless are the greatest population that we need to serve, to help them transition to mental health services and get a place for them to stay.
- Survey Results - Jim  
Committee members received the Nebraska 2005 Behavioral Health Consumer survey results.

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Survey was taken by a sample of people receiving mental health or substance abuse services from January 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005. The same survey questionnaire was used but changed the administration of the survey, which resulted with a slight improvement. At the end of document is the Statewide Survey Responses. (*Attachment C*)

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **I. Cultural Competency Report – Maria Prendes-Intel**

Proposal summary of Training for Behavioral Health Interpreters in Nebraska was distributed to committee members. (*Attachment D*) The training is for Behavioral Health interrupters and multicultural competency training for Nebraska behavioral health care providers. The proposal is for interrupters, providers and administrators. Three (3) training modules are proposed: 1) Training of interpreters in Behavioral Health 2) Training Behavioral Health Providers 3) training administrators of Behavioral Health Agencies. Training to be done through out the year. The cost of the training is \$49,481.50.

A concern is obtaining funding. Suggestion is to check on how its done nationally, to contact other states.

Comments: Extremely expensive, good concept, needs further review, information needs to be give to Regions for their review and input. Check if there is funding option through the SIC grant, recommend a small HHSS group not limited to Behavioral Health but through our HHS system to talk this through. Such as, Division of BH services, Protection and Safety, Medicaid Division as well as well as HHSS Divisions purchasing behavioral health services. Then need to work with regions and service areas.

**Motion:** Chris Hanus

**Committee recommend Division to take the lead to create a small work group to bring people from HHSS to work out the detail of this proposal and find place of support for the concept.**

**Second:** Susan Krome

**Vote:** 13 voted yes, 2 voted no and 1 abstained.  
Motion passed.

### **2. Applying the Advisory Committee's Mission, Vision Values to Division Services – Allen Bartels**

Committee members were asked for input to identify the BH Visions' progress of meeting the committee's mission, vision values: successes and barriers

#### **VALUES**

##### The System Provides for access to needed services

- PIER
- WRAP around approach – one part of team is consumer
- From Ed- not serving that population well
- Housing – most in need groups
- Need for most crisis support state done well but could still improve
- How to insure consumer access
- What are we actually doing?
- Is the state living up to these values?
- How are these values operationalized? Where is the evidence?
- Crisis Intervention Teams in Region 5- need different things in rural vs. Urban
- 2 strengths – Consumer survey
- Weakness, no survey of those not served
- Some good data

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- Can we get back grant in draft form for next meeting?
  - Do our recommendations go anywhere?
  - Want to have impact on block grant – committee to offer input
  - Are we making progress on issues that matter?
  - Competent staff
  - Access – limited to very traditional work hours – difficult for families
  - Need consumer friendly hours
  - Is system really consumer-driven
  - Are there dollars attached?
  - Do we have access to culturally, linguistically competent staff?
  - What is the scope of this committee? Who are we influencing?
  - Challenge: More needs to be done to build true collaboration with consumers
  - Need to keep children within community – not send to other communities or states
  - Look at Values – are they prioritized correctly?
  - Are we able to actually prove that any outcomes are improving?
  - Is there any accountability for outcomes?
  - Is there any hard data?
  - Are we showing that symptom reductions are occurring?

Comment made; items listed are really goals and not division progress.

## **VI NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Nomination of Officers (Elections in May) – Allen Bartels**

Suggestion was to continue with the same Chair and Vice Chairperson.

**Motion:** Beth Baxter

Nomination was to have Allen Bartels for Chairperson, Richard Ellis for Vice Chairperson and Nancy Kratky for Secretary. Official votes will occur at the next meeting.

**Second:** Darlene Richards

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously by consensus.

**Motion:** Beth Baxter

To close the nominations.

**Second:** Scot Ford

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously by consensus.

### **2. Role of the Committee in Planning – Jim Harvey**

Hand outs were distributed related to the Advisory Committee and Behavioral Health Council to committee members. Duties are listed apply and refer to Planning Council per the Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-814 the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act and per the mental health block grant. (*Attachment E*)

Jim briefly mentioned the workshop presented February 3, 2006 by NAMHPAC Technical Assistance. Judy Stange was the presenter. The workshop included an overview of NAMHPAC and the Role of Planning Councils. Committee was asked if they would be interested in having Dr. Judy Stange come to Nebraska to present the training to the committee. (*Attachment F*)

Some committee members did attend the February 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop and stated it was a very good workshop and would be very beneficial to this committee.

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**Motion:** Dwain Fowler

To have NAMHPAC, Dr Judy Stange present the workshop to the committee.

**Second:** Nancy Kratky

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously by consensus.

**3. Legislation – Allen Bartels**

A summary list of legislative bills was available for individuals that would be interested in Legislative bills. (*Attachment G*)

**VII. MH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BH COUNCIL**

1. For the division to take the lead to create a small workgroup to work out the details of the Cultural Competency training proposal.
2. To have Dr. Judy Stange present the workshop regarding the Role of Planning Councils and have The division provide funding to cover committee members expenses to attend the workshop.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Meila Cooke – encouraged the committee to have Judy Stange conduct her training.
2. Alan Green from MHA, recommendation function does not get lost. He feels the MH Block grant is a major issue and a big responsibility of this committee.

**IX. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Children Services/issues – Sue Adams/Kate Speck
2. Funding for consumer training in programs (Peer to Peer)
3. Long term outcome measures – Look at National outcome measures
4. relinquishments of children whatever is being done
5. Medical VISAS
6. Public Comments

**General Comments:**

An issue of location of the meeting was to have bus access and this was met.  
Requested that there be better parking. Plus it's hard to hear each other talking at this location.

**X. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**2006 MEETING DATES:**

Meeting dates to be determined at the May 9, 2006.

Prepared by:

Alexandra Castillo

Staff Assistant I

Division of Behavioral Health Services

February 17, 2006.

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Harvey  
Quality Improvement Coordinator  
Division of Behavioral Health Services